

Afternoon Convoy update

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Just sent to the Minister – mostly consolidates information you all already have:

Good afternoon sir,

Couple of items to flag. RCMP have reported they've received a media request regarding reports that Nazi symbols are being spray painted on Parliamentary Precinct buildings. They're coordinating a response with PPS and PSPC.

Per public RCMP traffic alerts the blockade at the Coutts, AB border crossing is still ongoing. Premier Kenney has tweeted a statement calling for it to end, noting it is a violation of the Alberta Traffic Safety Act. ([Tweet](#))

OPS put out [another update at 2PM](#), reiterating that their priorities continue to include:

- * Management of traffic issues (including gridlock);
- * Keeping peace and order;
- * Protecting monuments; and
- * Addressing threatening and/or high risk behaviour.

They describe police resources as "fully stretched and fully engaged".

The group behind the GoFundMe held its press conference earlier this afternoon as well. Andrew Lawton, who is employed by the True North Centre, said that only "independent journalists" were invited. According to Lawton's tweets the organizers plan to have the protest go on "as long as it takes". They plan to use the GoFundMe's \$8M for fuel, food, and lodging for truckers to continue the protest, and they may also potentially offer truckers compensation for lost wages from being unable to work.

When asked why the focus was on Ottawa when many vaccine mandates were imposed by provinces, organizers noted that while they started at the top provincial movements are going to follow. ([Full Twitter thread of press conference available here](#))

[RCMP UPDATE, 3:30PM] Event Overview:

- * Convoys totalling approximately 2950 vehicles have arrived in the NCR. Unknown number of vehicles in the downtown core. **Approximately 750 people reported at this time on Parliament Hill and approximately 300 people on Wellington St. Mood remains positive.**
- * Reports of a small convoy coming in from Arnprior, ON (20 vehicles).
- * Organizers have indicated that there will be speakers in Confederation Park on 2022-01-31.
- * The status of interprovincial bridges is as follows:
 - * MacDonald Cartier has reopened to 2 lanes in each direction;
 - * Alexandra Bridge remains closed;

- * Portage Bridge is closed in both directions due to demonstrations;
- * Chaudiere Bridge Southbound is closed; and
- * Champlain Bridge remains open.

Communications:

- * OPS has issued a second media update, shortly after the first, regarding the desecration of the War Memorial investigation, as well as the ongoing threatening/illegal/intimidating behaviour against police officers/city workers and other individuals, which included damage to a city vehicle.
- * National Division communications has received two (2) media requests, the first surrounding reports that Nazi symbols are being spray painted on buildings within the Parliamentary Precinct (coordinating a response with PPS, PSPC) and a second request surrounding misinformation that is being reported on crowd/convoy sizes and is being attributed to the RCMP/OPS. For the latter, partners have agreed that details on the size of the demonstrations will only be released once the event has concluded.

And lastly the following update has been sent to MPs from the Sargent at Arms. You might have already received it directly:

Security information

Given the current situation on Parliament Hill with regard to the Freedom Convoy, security plans are being developed to ensure your personal safety should you need to access the House of Commons precinct in the coming days. The plans will be shared with you later today. The sharing of security-related information could jeopardize your security and safety, that of Parliamentarians and that of all those who serve on the Hill. Please do not share this information.

Patrick McDonnell
Sergeant-at-Arms